

No title? MLA calls for one on literary essays -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:19 AM

For years, it has been stressed to students that education is paramount in order to become successful from both a financial and social standpoint. Those who are intelligent and who can offer advice and lessons to others attract respect, because people are always interested in bettering themselves. The best universities seek out those who have proved themselves to be of the highest level of intelligence in school, and those students tend to step into the top levels of society. They are able to obtain high paying jobs and are awarded more influence and power than those who hold jobs that require less mental prowess. Because of the numerous advantages that come with being well educated, most individuals aspire to reach a high level of intelligence. Although the majority of those who are well-versed have no trouble gaining acceptance and finding success, those who possess physical disadvantages are occasionally unable to succeed in society. Some students who are raised in poor communities frequently encounter difficult obstacles in the way of their educational aspirations. Way too general. We discussed this. -Eric

Lister 11/5/08 9:21 AM Others find it impossible to become socially accepted due to an appearance that differs from that of the norm. This is the dilemma that Frankenstein's creature faces in his quest to integrate himself into society. People do not see the highly intelligent creature as someone that can be learned from because his physical atrocities word choice -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:22 AM blind them from seeing the complex mind beneath. The role of education allows solely those who have been deemed "respectable" by the general public to flourish in society. Awkward phrasing. -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:22 AM

While Frankenstein's creature is repeatedly banished from society despite his resourcefulness, the more normal appearing characters in the novel are reasonably accepted due to their normal appearances even if they haven't no contractions in formal writing -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:23 AM been formally educated. The creature is automatically condemned to being thought of as unequal to the larger part of the population. People cannot see past the creature's grotesque appearance, so even though Frankenstein's creature is highly knowledgeable, people will never know his worth because of their unwillingness to ignore the creature's physical abnormalities. A bit obvious -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:38 AM When given the opportunity, the creature is able to win the praise and sympathy of a blind man who is not prejudiced by appearance. When the creature enters the cottage that he has been observing for days, the elderly blind man inside expresses that even

“if [the creature was] really criminal, for that can only drive [him] to desperation, and not instigate [him] to virtue. I also am unfortunate; I and my family have been condemned, although innocent; judge, therefore, if I do not feel for your misfortunes.' ... At that instant the cottage door was opened, and Felix, Safie, and Agatha entered [the cottage]. Who can describe their horror and consternation on beholding [the creature]? Agatha fainted, and Safie, unable to attend to her friend, rushed out of the cottage. Felix darted forward, and with supernatural force tore [the creature] from his father, to whose knees [the creature] clung; in a transport of fury, he dashed [the creature] to the ground and struck [him] violently with a stick.” (96-97).

The creature manages to establish somewhat of a friendship with the old blind man, but when the rest of the cottage residents enter their household and behold the appearance of the strange being, they react severely. Felix possesses “supernatural force” when he goes to deal with the creature that he believes poses a threat to his father. Previous to this passage, only the creature was described to have any supernatural abilities. transition between ideas? This idea has potential -

Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:24 AM Supernatural conveys non-human characteristics that would be viewed as abnormal to the majority of people. The creature is supernatural not only because of his super-strength and speed, but because of his alien appearance. The creature appears different from normal humans, and for this reason is not accepted by those who fit into mainstream society because people are typically not quick to accept those who appear to be outcasts. This paper could use a good editing to remove some of the excess language. This sentence is circular

-Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:40 AM For this reason, the creature cannot prove his worth because he is not given the chance to display his intelligence and personality before he is rejected for his appearance. While the creature is cast from society despite his brilliance, the less intelligible proofread -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:40 AM characters of the novel lead normal, respected lives in society while possessing average amounts of intellect. When Mr. Walton is boating in the northern regions of Europe, he rescues a man on the verge of death from the ice below.

“Will you smile at the enthusiasm I express concerning this divine wanderer? You would not if you saw him. You have been tutored and refined by books and retirement from the world, and you are therefore somewhat fastidious; but this only renders you the more fit to appreciate the extraordinary merits of this wonderful man. Sometimes I have endeavoured to discover what quality it is which he possesses that elevates him so immeasurably above any other person I ever knew. I believe it to be an intuitive discernment, a quick but never-failing power of judgment, a penetration into the causes of things, unequalled for clearness and precision; add to this a facility of expression and a voice whose varied intonations are soul-subduing music” (12-13).

The man that Walton meets may not be particularly intelligent or educated, but Walton is able to see past this and appreciate the man for his other qualities. The word “divine” implies that Walton sees the man as being god-like. Walton gets this impression from the man without even knowing him very well, showing that there are qualities in a person that are more powerful than intelligence. The fact that someone who has known him for a very brief amount of time respects the “wanderer” demonstrates the advantage that appearing normal brings. If the traveler appeared as Frankenstein’s creature did, there is no way that Walton would have been able to overlook the horrific features, and he would never have discovered the man’s “divine” attributes. So what do you make of the scene between the creature and Walton? -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:41 AM Victor Frankenstein’s close friend, Henry Clerval, was deprived of a formal education at a young age. At the beginning of the novel, Victor reveals that Henry “deeply felt the misfortune of being debarred from a liberal education” (25). One who is unable to access information and gain knowledge is at a great disadvantage in society. The use of the word “debarred” makes one think of a jail cell because the second part of the word, “barred”, could refer to the bars of a prison cell. Good effort, but a bit of a stretch -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:42 AM When one is locked in a jail cell, they are shut out from the rest of normal society and are unable to mingle with other people. Therefore, the lack of knowledge is comparable to being trapped in a barred jail cell because it makes it more difficult to communicate and be a part of society and the outside world. Henry is able to escape a life of isolation from society because he eventually becomes better educated, and because he can live among regular citizens due to his appearance, which is what the general public may expect to see of a normal person. The creature experiences the fate that Henry is able to avoid due to his abnormal appearance in the eyes of the general public that condemns him to a life of emotional separation from society. When describing his family, Victor

says that his “ancestors had been for many years counsellors and syndics, and my father had filled several public situations with honour and reputation. He was respected by all who knew him for his integrity and indefatigable attention to public business”(14). Victor’s father is highly respected in society because of the dual advantage that he possesses of intelligence and average appearance. The coupling of these traits gives Victor’s father a leg up on the majority of the population How much money did he start with? Don't oversimplify -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:43 AM and allows him to succeed in society because he is able to command respect from the people in lower positions. Looking normal grants people an equal position to influence others from, using what positive traits they hold to their advantage, whereas those who differ in appearance are immediately placed on a lower level from which they may or may not be able to gain respect from.dangling modifier -Eric Lister 11/5/08 9:44 AM

In *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley makes it apparent that being well educated gives an individual a clear edge in society. It is also demonstrated through her work that one must also appear normal to those they are trying to gain respect from in order to have any success. Without a combination of these two traits, an individual is not able to command the respect that they yearn for in society. Frankenstein’s creature is able to gain neither respect nor acceptance from the people that he so longs to join and live among. His appearance bars him from achieving this highly sought after acceptance despite his intellectual prowess. While other characters in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* are able to lead relatively normal lives because of their average appearances, the creature is doomed to a life of prejudice and isolation due to his unfortunate features.

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I think there is a good argument to be made here, but right now, the writing gets in the way of this argument. There is a tendency for the writing to be circular. If you cut approximately 1/3 of the extra material from each paragraph I think you would see where and how to push your analysis. Be careful not to include too much plot detail unless it is introducing evidence, or unless it will be used as evidence.